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22 August 1961

D R A F T

Need for Intelligence on ChiCom
Activities Opposite Taiwan

1. There have been recent COMINT reports of unusual alert activities at Luchiao and Ctuhsien related to the naval activity in the Wenchow area, which is immediately north of Taiwan on the China mainland (see attached message). Whereas these unusual alert activities cannot be explained on the basis of available facts, their geography is such as to point to the possibility of renewed ChiCom attack on the Off Shore Islands or Taiwan.
2. There is a further possibility that the Communists would choose the present state of tension in regard to Berlin as a time to create difficulties for the United States and its Allies in another area, thus diverting attention from Berlin in part and also complicating the problems which face the U. S. and its Allies.
3. In the light of the foregoing, we conclude that U-2 reconnaissance should be undertaken to permit us to assess military developments on the China mainland which might be related to possible attack on the Off Shore Islands and Taiwan.

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4. Recommendation: It is recommended that action be taken to initiate a U-2 reconnaissance as indicated above.

Attachment:

Copy 2--State TCO
3--OSD
4--JCS TCO
5--OACSI TCO
6--ONI TCO
7, 8, 9--AFCIN TCO
10, 11--NSA TCO

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1. Unusual strip alert status Luchiao and Ctuhsien suggests at least ultra sensitive exercise, possibly the naval activity in Wenchow area. No repeat no firm indicators available which would point toward threat to Off Shore Islands. Puzzling factor in strip alert activity is equally abnormal posture in Northeast China, which would not necessarily be related to Wenchow naval activity. Consider recent realignment of Southeast Air Division and 7th Air Activity element; unusual Army and Navy communications in coastal area; 2-5 August flight of Thirdind rgt aircraft Peiping to Foochow via Chingtao and Hangzhou; possibly Spoofer controller in strait area: TFIT-I 18-8-61) as possibly relating to current activity. Although activity does not appear threatening, situation could develop rapidly.

2. Possibly Spoofer activity on 18 August was coupled with scramble from Luchuko and Ningpo. Although Luchiao again scrambled on Sharkfin men today, no repeat no Spoofer activity was noted. Scrambles could have been protection for naval activity in coastal area; however, all evidence points to reaction to the ELINT flights.

3. ChiComs may react strongly (possibly to point of interception) to any reconnaissance missions in general area. Suggest recce mens in immediate future be undertaken only by aircraft possessing sufficient speed and maneuverability to outperform known ChiCom aircraft in this area.

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Copy 1--DDI(P) TCO
12--OCI TCO
13--OSI TCO
14--ORR TCO
15--DIR NPIC
16--OPS OFF/NPIC
17--TSO/CIA
18--C/DMD/NPIC
19--DDP TCO
20--Intel Staff/DPD
21--SO/DPD
22-25--C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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